



Plenary sitting

B8-0295/2018

12.6.2018

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda for a debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 135 of the Rules of Procedure

on Situation of Rohingyas refugees, in particular the plight of children
(2018/2756(RSP))

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on behalf of the PPE Group

**European Parliament resolution on Situation of Rohingyas refugees, in particular the plight of children
(2018/2756(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Myanmar and on the situation of Rohingya Muslims, in particular those of 14 December 2017, 14 September 2017, 7 July 2016 and 15 December 2016, and of 13 June 2017 on statelessness in South and South East Asia,
- having regard to the Joint Statement by High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security/Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini and UNICEF Executive Director, Henrietta H. Fore of 25 May 2018,
- having regard to the Joint Press Release: EU- Bangladesh Subgroup on Governance and Human Rights of 26 April 2018,
- having regard to the Press Statement of UN Security Council visit to Myanmar and Bangladesh of 8 May 2018,
- having regard to the European Commission new policy framework adopted on 18 May 2018, aiming to increase humanitarian funding for education in emergencies and crises to 10% of its overall humanitarian aid budget as of 2019,
- having regard to the Council conclusions on Myanmar/Burma of 16 October 2017,
- having regard to the remarks by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR), Federica Mogherini, in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh on 19 November 2017,
- having regard to the statement of 6 September 2017 by the VP/HR on the situation in Rakhine State, to the statement of 11 September 2017 by the VP/HR on the latest developments in Rakhine State, Myanmar and the border region in Bangladesh, to the declaration of 20 November 2017 by the VP/HR on behalf of the European Union on Myanmar/Burma, and to the statement of 23 November 2017 by the VP/HR on the signing of a bilateral repatriation agreement between the Governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh,
- having regard to the joint communication of 1 June 2016 by the Commission and the VP/HR to the European Parliament and the Council entitled 'Elements for an EU strategy vis-à-vis Myanmar/Burma: A Special Partnership for Democracy, Peace and Prosperity' (JOIN(2016)0024),
- having regard to the joint press release on the fourth Myanmar-EU Human Rights Dialogue,

- having regard to the 27th special session of the UN Human Rights Council on the human rights situation of the minority Rohingya Muslim population and other minorities in Rakhine State, Myanmar,
 - having regard to the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto,
 - having regard to the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,
 - having regard to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2014-2024,
 - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948,
 - having regard to the Final Report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State,
 - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966 and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1966,
 - having regard to the ASEAN Charter,
 - having regard to Rule 135 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Rakhine State in Myanmar is home to approximately one million Rohingya, a predominantly Muslim minority group facing repression and continued serious human rights violations, including threats to life and security, denial of the right to health and education, malnutrition and food insecurity, forced labour, sexual violence and limitations on their political rights;
- B. whereas the Rohingya are one of the most persecuted minorities in the world; whereas the Rohingya are largely confined to camps with severe restrictions placed on free movement within and outside Rakhine State;
- C. whereas over 626,000 Rohingya people have crossed into Bangladesh from Myanmar since early August 2017 and they are fleeing violence in Rakhine state where security forces are clearing out terrorists;
- D. whereas children make up 50% of the Rohingya refugee community, and an estimated 625,000 children lack access to learning opportunities; whereas new arrivals are living in highly congested areas (around 8m sq/person) and are susceptible to disease and malnutrition; whereas in addition to the daily stressors of displacement, children have suffered profound trauma and, with little access to safe, child friendly facilities, they face serious protection risks including abuse, child marriage, trafficking and child labour; whereas without adequate support, children here face the prospect of growing up without an education and without the means to process the horrific events they have lived through;

- E. whereas the governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar have already agreed that the Rohingya should return to Myanmar on a “voluntary” basis as reported on November 2017; whereas however, until their citizenship is recognised and the systematic discrimination stops, there is little point in them returning to Myanmar;
- F. whereas the majority of the Rohingya are Muslims but they are not recognised as citizens in Myanmar and are therefore considered a “stateless” people; whereas this is the third major movement of Rohingya into Bangladesh as a result of violence; whereas the first happened in the mid-1970s; whereas the second happened in 1992; whereas the third major movement is the current crisis which has escalated since mid-August 2017; whereas on each of the previous occasions of movement of the Rohingya, they were encouraged to return to Myanmar, which many of them did, only for them or their children to have to flee again;
1. Calls on the international community to prioritize the needs of vulnerable Rohingya children arriving in Bangladesh; stresses that in addition, adolescent girls, must be protected, as they are one of the groups most at risk of gender-based violence within the camps;
 2. Urges the governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar to work together to resolve the crisis and create the conditions allowing the safe, voluntary and dignified repatriation of refugees to their homes in Rakhine State;
 3. Urges the international community to continue supporting the work being undertaken by the UN and humanitarian agencies in southern Bangladesh, on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of vulnerable refugees living there; underlines that among the refugees living in the camps, children have been suffering from a variety of health problems, including widespread malnutrition;
 4. Calls for the EU and its Member States to support the UNHCR Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2014-2024;
 5. Urges the Myanmar authorities to work in conjunction with international aid agencies, the EU and the UN to allow immediate, unhindered humanitarian access to Rakhine State and the surrounding areas, including dedicated support for vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly and victims of sexual violence; urges the government to implement measures in line with UN Security Council resolution 2106 (2013) to prevent and respond to incidents of sexual violence;
 6. Highlights that it is essential for Myanmar to carry out transparent investigations into allegations of human rights abuses and violations; urges the government to fulfil, based on respect for the rule of law, its stated commitment to holding accountable perpetrators of violence, including sexual violence and abuse and violence against children;
 7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Government and Parliament of Myanmar, the Government and Parliament of Bangladesh, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Secretary-

General of ASEAN, the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the UN Human Rights Council.